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BPA communications KC-7

We wish to go on record as being against the Maiden Wind farm project. This project will cause environmental harm to the area. As you know the land as is now is pretty much unmolested from development and sprawl. All the roads, gravel pits, transmission lines, structures, will destroy this quiet, unique area. I realize BPA is under pressure to develop "green power", but please do it somewhere that is already developed, like Horse Heaven. Rattlesnake is not that windy (I grew up on Rattlesnake) and this project is such a waste of taxpayer money. The tax subsidy of this project is wrong and causes great harm to the area.

Thank you,

*Joanne Anderson Porter*

Enclosed is a letter I wrote to the editor of area newspapers.

Dear Editor,

Very soon it's almost certain that tremendous changes will be taking place on the Rattlesnake Hills, between State Route 241-, in Yakima County and Crosby road in Benton County. The corporation, Washington Winds, Inc. Has leased land from private landowners and plan to install approximately 549 wind machines across the ridge of Rattlesnake and also spread these machines out on lower elevations across Rattlesnake. Transmissions lines will be built to connect these wind towers along with maintenance and operational buildings. Electrical substations also would be installed. Several articles have been printed in the Yakima Herald in the past 10 months, concerning the "Maiden Wind Farm Project"; these articles basically painted a positive picture of this project and failed to tell the whole story. As the Rattlesnake Hills are now, you will find a vast area essentially in its natural state, with its wildlife, vegetation and natural springs that serve these animals. The ranchers have a few 2-track ranch roads that they use to check on the livestock that are thinly spread out over the hill. They have been good stewards of the land and the land with its native inhabitants have remained pretty much unmolested by development and sprawl. The development of this wind farm will demand that up to 44 miles of new roads be build to accommodate the heavy construction equipment and machinery. To build these roads, two quarry pits will need to be developed to provide the gravel and rock. These invasive roads will forever scar the land and be visible for miles. They will put people, trucks & bulldozers across miles of hillside, lower elevation prairie, across canyons and around springs. The wind machines will be approximately 325 to 390 feet high. The destructive effect on this unique land and its wildlife is distressing in itself but if this wind power project made good economic sense and there was a need for it, perhaps we could justify the building of this project, unfortunately it does not even come close. Please examine the following facts that have not been given to the public.

Maiden Wind Farm will be funded with a power sales contract from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). The project owner, Washington Winds will receive a federal tax subsidy funded by all the rest of us. Bonneville Power Administration under pressure to provide, "green power" will be and is using ratepayer dollars to pay for this project. None of us know when the wind will blow so this type of a generation resource is not reliable, schedulable or of much actual value. This project will only generate approximately 1/3 of the time so the value of the generation is far less than other types of resources such as combustion turbines and hydro projects. In fact, without the federal tax subsidy of \$.015 per kwh wind projects on their own, without subsidies, would not be developed. BPA at this point in time has a lot of surplus power so the generation produced at this project and others like it is a waste of rate payer's money as will as federal tax dollars. Without subsidies these projects cannot survive. BPA will pay approximately .035 per kwh to Washington Wind Corp, whereas today BPA would sell non firm power on the open market for close to nothing. In other words there is very little value in non-reliable energy resources. We as consumers of electricity will lose.

It should be remembered that the wind does not always blow, nor can anyone tell the wind when to blow, in fact Bonneville acknowledges that only in a small area of the gap in Rattlesnake along State Route 241, is the wind consistent enough to generate acceptable power output. The Rattlesnake Hills are just not that windy.

In short this just another corporation looking for a deep pocket, yours and mine. Another fleecing of the American public. BPA is accepting public comment up until May 15, 2002. Please contact BPA Communications, KC-7, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR, 97212 or [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov) or call toll free at 1-800-622-4519 and record your comments. Also you can contact the Benton County Planning Dept. P.O. Box 910, Prosser, Wa 99350 or [mike.shuttleworth@co.benton.wa.us](mailto:mike.shuttleworth@co.benton.wa.us)